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Nixon Produces Paradox Over Proposal On Cuba

An issue which has risen in the campaign discussion over the Cuban problem needs clarification.

In a statement last week, Sen. John F. Kennedy said among suggestions for action on the Cuban situation: "We must attempt to strengthen the non-Batista democratic anti-Castro forces in exile and in Cuba itself, who offer eventual hope of overthrowing Castro. Thus far these fighters for freedom have had virtually no support from our government."

Vice President Nixon, in the fourth joint campaign appearance on television, made this statement: "I think Sen. Kennedy's policies and recommendations for the handling of the Castro regime are probably the most dangerously irresponsible recommendations that he has made during the course of this campaign. In effect, what Sen. Kennedy recommends, is that the United States Government should give help to the exiles and to those within Cuba who oppose the Castro regime providing they are anti-Batista."

A few sentences later, Nixon declared: "Now, what can we do? Well, we can do what we did with Guatemala. There was a Communist dictator that we had inherited from the previous administration. We quarantined Mr. Ar-

benz. The result was that the Guatemalan people themselves eventually rose up, and they threw him out."

Now we quote James Reston of the New York Times in his syndicated article of Oct. 24: "This is the joke of the weekend in the Latin American embassies. Every official who knows anything about the fall of the Arbenz government in Guatemala knows that the United States Government, through the Central Intelligence Agency, worked actively with, and financed, and made available the arms with which the anti-Arbenz forces finally threw him out. . . . They did in Guatemala what Sen. Kennedy is proposing to do in Cuba. They helped the opposition to a pro-Communist dictator, and the only difference is that the Eisenhower administration was prudent enough to keep quiet about it in advance."

Is there an issue here or just this question: Should we discreetly, as we did in Guatemala, support anti-Batista, anti-Castro, anti-Communist forces wanting to free Cuba? The answer, if discretion be observed, cannot be publicly given.

The charge against Kennedy that his recommendation is "most dangerously irresponsible," however, is not valid. Nixon has merely produced a paradox.